



Department of Modern Languages

January 13, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Since the start of the Department of Justice filed suit against Microsoft three years ago, the IT industry and the economy have been unnecessarily disrupted. The enormous cost this lawsuit has been on the federal government and the IT industry will be inevitably passed onto the consumer through higher prices on technology products for years to come. This cost can only increase as the suit remains in the hands of the court.

Microsoft has agreed to contract changes with distributors, and to opening parts of its proprietary code to competitors among other things. The settlement overcompensates Microsoft's competitors for any substantive infractions it may be guilty of and will surely mitigate Microsoft's market power in the future.

This suit must end. The government has proven that it can effectively disrupt an entire industry with ambiguous results for the consumer in the end. For this and the above reasons, I support this settlement and desire an end of this case.

Sincerely,

John & Sylvia Pressman
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